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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 14-20 were pending in the subject application. Claims 3 and 10-13 were previously canceled, without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Applicant has hereinabove canceled claims 1 and 16-20, likewise without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Applicant has also amended claims 2, 5-9, 14 and 15, and added new dependent claims 21-27. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-9, 14, 15 and 21-27 are presented for examination, with claims 14 and 15 being in independent form.

Independent claims 14 and 15 have been amended to place the claims in better form for examination, without narrowing the scope of the claimed invention, based on the undersigned's understanding from the telephone conferences with the Examiner that claims 14 and 15 as amended are allowable. Claims 2 and 4-9, which previously depended from now-canceled claim 1, have been amended to depend from independent claim 15. New claims 21-27, which depend from independent claim 14, are counterparts to claims 2 and 4-9.

Support for claim 14 may be found, inter alia, in the specification at page 4, line 24 through page 5, line 3, and page 12, lines 15-18. Further support for claim 14 may be found, inter alia, in the specification as originally filed at page 31, line 27 through page 32, line 7.

Support for claim 15 may be found, inter alia, in the specification at page 5, lines 5-20, and page 12, lines 18-21. Further support for claim 15 may be found, inter alia, in the

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specification as originally filed at page 32, lines 9-25.

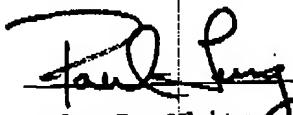
Applicant maintains that no new matter is presented by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant maintains that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the claims.

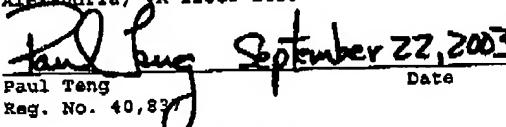
If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the telephone number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile transmission this date and deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


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